DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 451 756 HE 033 884

TITLE	Higher Education Innovation Fund. Funding Proposals. Consultation. Report.
INSTITUTION	Higher Education Funding Council for England, Bristol.
REPORT NO	HEFCE-01/22
PUB DATE	2001-04-00
NOTE	14p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Higher Education Funding Council for England, Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QD, England, United Kingdom. Tel: 0117-931-7317; Fax: 0117-931-7203; Web site: http://www.hefce.ac.uk.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Business; *Educational Finance; Educational Innovation; Educational Policy; Foreign Countries; *Higher Education; Resource Allocation; *School Business Relationship
IDENTIFIERS	*England

ABSTRACT

This document outlines proposals for higher education institutions in England to apply for special funding for activities that will increase their capability to respond to the needs of business (including companies of all sizes and a range of bodies within the wider community) for cases in which this will lead to identifiable economic benefits. It asks interested institutions to respond about strategic priorities and funding proposals for this initiative. The new Higher Education Innovation Fund builds on previous findings and is designed to sit alongside institutions' teaching and research activities, enabling them to secure the maximum economic benefit from these activities. The fund will continue to provide a platform of core funding to help institutions enhance organizational and structural arrangements to implement their strategic aims in responding to the needs of business. It is proposed that higher education institutions will be invited to apply for these funds by May 2001. Two appendixes contain guidance notes about funding and the application guidelines. (SLD)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 451 756

Consultation

April 01/22

Respond by 4 May 2001

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Funding proposals

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE AND IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA FOR ERIC COLLECTION SUBSCRIBERS ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

R. Kier

2A TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Office of Science and Technology

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND hefce

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

© HEFCE 2001

The copyright for this publication is held by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The material may be copied or reproduced provided that the source is acknowledged and the material, wholly or in part, is not used for commercial gain. Use of the material for commercial gain requires the prior written permission of the HEFCE.

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Funding proposals

To	Heads of HEFCE-funded higher education institutions
Of interest to those responsible for	Relations between HE and business and the wider community; contract and collaborative research; continuing vocational education; strategic planning
Reference	01/**22**
Publication date	April 2001
Enquiries to	Adrian Hill, tel 0117 931 7351, e-mail a.hill@hefce.ac.uk Or HEFCE regional consultants

Executive summary

Purpose

1. This document outlines proposals for higher education institutions (HEIs) in England to apply for special funding for activities that will increase their capability to respond to the needs of business (including companies of all sizes and a range of bodies within the wider community), where this will lead to identifiable economic benefits.

Key points

2. The new Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) builds on the third stream of funding initiated by the Higher Education Reach-out to Business and the Community fund (HEROBC). It is designed to sit alongside institutions' teaching and research activities, enabling them to secure the maximum economic benefit from those activities.

3. The fund will continue to provide a platform of core funding to help HEIs enhance organisational and structural arrangements for implementing their strategic aims in this area, so that they can contribute to economic growth and competitiveness.

4. The proposed activity builds on HEROBC, on which we consulted fully. However, we would welcome comments on our strategic aims and objectives for the fund, and on the proposed criteria for allocations and distribution arrangements. These are set out in the guidance notes on Knowledge Exploitation Funding (Annex A) and the application guidelines for HEIF (Annex B). A list of acronyms is given in Annex C.

Action required

5. Please send responses to this consultation to Adrian Hill at the HEFCE, to arrive by **4 May 2001.**

Background

6. Funding for HEIF was announced following the Government's 2000 Spending Review, in order to continue and develop the work of HEROBC. The fund has been established as a partnership between the Department of Trade and Industry/Office of Science and Technology (DTI/OST), the HEFCE, and the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE).

7. As announced in the Science and Innovation White Paper published in July 2000, the HEIF is worth £140 million over three years and will help build on institutions' potential as drivers of growth in the knowledge economy. The fund will incorporate the existing HEROBC fund, for which the HEFCE is currently providing around £20 million a year. It is expected that the HEFCE will continue to provide third stream funding at that rate or greater.

8. New resources are being made available by OST of £20 million a year in each of 2001-02 and 2002-03, rising to £40 million in 2003-04.

Proposals

9. We propose to invite HEIs to apply for funding in May 2001, in accordance with the arrangements set out in this document. Applications from consortia of HEIs which show added value over what could be achieved individually will be welcome. Applications are also invited for large scale pilots or exemplar projects, along the lines of the University Innovation Centres described in the White Paper on enterprise, skills and innovation.

10. It is proposed that £80 million should be allocated in this way. Funds will be awarded to individual HEIs, or to consortia of HEIs through a nominated co-ordinating institution.

11. It is intended that permanent third stream funding will be available in future for supporting seed funding and entrepreneurial activities which have previously been funded under the separate University Challenge and Science Enterprise Challenge schemes. In order to progress the move towards a co-ordinated single funding stream, HEIs will be invited to submit bids for HEIF, Science Enterprise Challenge and University Challenge within a co-ordinated framework, as set out in the guidance notes on Knowledge Exploitation Funding (see Annex A). Applications for funding will be reviewed collectively, and one advisory group will assess proposals for all three competitions.

12. HEIs which apply for funding will be expected to show how their proposals fit with their strategy for managing and improving third stream activities, reflecting their mission and established record in this field, and recognising the specific needs of business.

13. Full proposed guidelines for preparing and submitting applications, and the arrangements for assessing these, are set out at Annex B.

Timetable

14. We propose to work to the following timetable:

- call for applications – 21 May 2001
- close of competition – 20 July 2001
- awards announced - end September 2001.

Issues for consultation

15. The proposed activity builds on HEROBC, on which we consulted institutions fully. As HEIF will also be inviting larger collaborative bids, we would welcome the views of institutions and others on the strategic priorities and funding proposals for this initiative.

16. Comments are invited in particular on:

- the objectives of the fund
- the proposed process and criteria for applications and awards
- the proposals for management, monitoring, and evaluation.

Responses

17. Responses to this consultation should be sent to arrive **by 4 May 2001** to:

Adrian Hill
HEFCE
Northavon House
Coldharbour Lane
BRISTOL
BS16 1QD

Annex A

Knowledge Exploitation Funding: guidance notes

1. This note explains the arrangements for bidding for Science Enterprise Challenge, University Challenge and the Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund (PSREF), and the proposed arrangements for the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) awards. The bidding framework has been co-ordinated to allow bidders to make a strategic choice about the funding strands for which they wish to bid. Detailed guidelines are available for the individual funds (see Annex B for proposed guidelines on HEIF).

Background

2. The pivotal role that higher education plays in providing the UK with a highly qualified workforce and a world-class science and engineering base has long been acknowledged. Alongside their more traditional roles of teaching and research, higher education institutions (HEIs) and public sector research establishments (PSREs) have increasingly been adopting a further role as stimulators and facilitators of knowledge transfer to business and society.

3. The White Paper on enterprise, skills and innovation, 'Opportunity for all in a world of change', recognises the crucial role of HEIs in the economy as powerful drivers of innovation and change. But different HEIs and PSREs have different contributions to make: some as world class centres of research excellence and players in global markets; others primarily as collaborators with local businesses and communities, and with regional bodies. Institutions must choose the role which best suits their strengths. Public funding encourages such choice, by providing incentives for institutions to become more entrepreneurial, build closer links with business and the community, and have proper arrangements for exploiting the results of their work.

4. The strong demand for funding under the Science Enterprise Challenge and University Challenge programmes prompted the initiation of one further call for new proposals. Similarly, the PSREF was announced to address the needs of the public sector research community. The new HEIF will continue and develop the work of the Higher Education Reach-out to Business and the Community fund (HEROBC). Collectively this funding represents a significant public investment in knowledge transfer activity. It will help institutions to develop and implement their strategic aims in this area, and to prepare for the intended migration to a permanent third stream of funding, which will reward and encourage excellence in knowledge transfer alongside research and teaching.

Objectives

5. The aim is to foster closer links between HEIs, public sector research organisations and industry, leading to greater exploitation of science, and bringing greater wealth and innovation. Specifically this will be by encouraging:

- systematic and sustainable change within institutions in how they relate to business, particularly changes in institutional and academic cultures
- more widespread and rapid transfer to businesses of new ideas, products and processes generated within the research base
- entrepreneurial activities
- the incorporation of teaching of enterprise into the science and engineering curricula
- contribution to the economic development of the nation.

What support is available?

6. Knowledge transfer/exploitation funding will be available for a range of complementary activities, announced in the Science and Innovation White Paper and the White Paper on enterprise, skills and innovation.

Higher Education Innovation Fund

7. HEIF incorporates the existing HEROBC fund. Additional funding of £80 million will support:

- the continuing development of capacity in HEIs to interact with business and the community
- large strategic collaborations to establish excellence and coherence in meeting regional needs in the above areas, and to build on partnerships between business and higher education, as well as with other HEIs and HE organisations. This could possibly include specialised regionally-based HE-business

partnerships along the lines of the University Innovation Centres announced in the White Paper 'Opportunity for all' (www.dti.gov.uk/opportunityforall). Those centres provide examples of the potential for HEIs to act as hubs for economic growth and to promote the participation of small and medium enterprises in the generation and exploitation of knowledge. While there will not be another specific call for further University Innovation Centres as such, HEIs involved in assembling funding packages to develop similar centres may wish to consider applying for support under HEIF for knowledge transfer elements.

8. Institutions submitting large collaborative proposals to HEIF, which require capital for research-related infrastructure, should consider how their knowledge exploitation strategies might fit with their use of any Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF) allocations. SRIF was announced by the HEFCE in February 2001 (see HEFCE 01/11). It provides capital funding to continue the improvement to the science research infrastructure in higher education begun under the Joint Infrastructure Fund. Funding will be allocated to institutions according to a formula.

Science Enterprise Challenge

9. A total of £15 million is available for a final round of the Science Enterprise Challenge, to give further momentum to entrepreneurial education for science and engineering students. The aim is to increase the number of participating HEIs, either by establishing new centres or by expanding existing ones.

University Challenge

10. £15 million is available for a final round of University Challenge, to provide seed funds that will help institutions transform good research into good business. This will build on the success of the first round, expanding the number of HEIs and public sector research institutes with access to a University Challenge seed fund. The principles remain essentially unchanged from the first round.

Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund

11. A total of £10 million is available to public sector research establishments, who can bid for seed funding to support commercialisation of research and to develop their capacity to exploit their science and technology.

Bidding arrangements

12. The concurrent announcement of bidding rounds brings the funds together in a co-ordinated process which allows bidders to make a strategic choice about the funding strands for which they wish to bid. Applicants can decide which funding route best fits their needs, but cannot benefit through two funding routes for the same activity.

13. Bids should be presented within the framework of an overall strategy and demonstrate the synergy and added value that the different strands contribute, and the tangible economic benefits.

14. This approach will highlight the different ways in which the funding can contribute to the strategic development of third stream activity envisaged in the cross-cutting review of science and research, and inform discussions about permanent third stream funding awarded on a formulaic basis in the future.

How to apply

15. The timetable for the competitions is given below. The competitions will be overseen by the Office of Science and Technology, and a joint advisory group will assess all bids.

Fund	Launch consultation	Call for bids	Closing date for bids	Awards announced
University Challenge	–	April 2001	20 July 2001	end September 2001
PSREF	–	April 2001	20 July 2001	end September 2001
Science Enterprise Challenge	–	April 2001	20 July 2001	end September 2001
HEIF	9 April 2001	21 May 2001	20 July 2001	end September 2001

Annex B

Higher Education Innovation Fund: application guidelines

1. This document explains the proposed arrangements for inviting higher education institutions (HEIs) in England to bid for funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). It should be read in conjunction with the guidance notes on Knowledge Exploitation Funding (Annex A).

Objectives

2. The objective for HEIF is for HEIs to build capacity to work with business, in particular small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

3. The aims are:

a. Improved organisational arrangements and structures within HEIs so that they are better able to respond to business needs and to interact more effectively with business and the community, including with small companies and with a range of bodies in their regions which contribute to economic growth and competitiveness more generally.

b. Better access for business and the community to the trained people, products, resources and services produced in HEIs, and more use of them.

c. More widespread systematic and rapid transfer to businesses of new ideas, products and processes generated within HEIs.

d. Improved readiness of graduates for employment through the development of work-related skills – especially enterprise, management, and leadership.

e. Improved relationships between HEIs and businesses and community organisations at a personal level, including staff exchanges and transfers and the development of lasting working relationships.

f. Enhanced institutional capacity to respond in a concerted and effective manner to other initiatives promoting employability, enterprise and skills.

g. Enhanced contribution to the economic development of the nation, particularly in economically disadvantaged regions.

h. Systematic and sustainable change within HEIs in how they relate to business and the community, particularly changes in institutional and academic cultures.

Funding

4. New resources totalling £80 million over three years have been made available by the Office of Science and Technology (OST).

5. HEIs are invited to apply for funding for projects of a range of types, including strategic collaborative projects larger than those funded under previous rounds of the Higher Education Reach-out to Business and the Community fund (HEROBC). All applications will be judged on their quality although the expectation is that there will be a broad spread of models.

Eligibility

6. HEIs in England are eligible to apply for funding for their individual institution and/or as part of a consortia bid for larger collaborative projects.

Fundable activities

7. Applicants should bear in mind the fund's emphasis on enhancing developments initiated under HEROBC, through improving structures and systems to facilitate increased and better targeted provision on the ground, and in particular by building interactions with small companies and other organisations that contribute to economic growth.

8. Institutions are encouraged to submit innovative proposals for funding activities that best meet their aims and established strengths, and that meet identified economic needs. In considering forward plans under HEIF, institutions may wish to have regard to the advice below.

9. Most of the funded HEROBC bids included the establishment within institutions of centrally located expertise in business links – in the form of a business development office or hub unit to co-ordinate interaction with business, and to serve as a single entry port for businesses to access advice. Frequently these were established by recruiting specialist staff with expertise in, for example, intellectual property rights. Common themes in forward plans under HEROBC included:

a. Improving dialogue with business locally, regionally, and more widely, including market research and the analysis of needs for manpower, skills training and specialised support in the regional economy.

b. Making it easier for individual businesses and their staff to find out the full range of what HEIs have to offer them.

c. Making higher education staff more aware of business needs and opportunities for knowledge transfer – including training and secondment.

d. Promoting the commercialisation of research outcomes through spin-out companies, incubator units, and professional support for consultancy and licensing arrangements.

10. High quality new proposals along the lines of the above are invited. In addition, proposals are welcome for the following:

a. Large strategic collaborations to establish excellence and coherence in meeting regional needs in the areas outlined in paragraph 7, and which build upon partnerships between business and higher education, as well as with other HEIs and HE organisations. This could include specialised regionally-based HE-business partnerships along the lines of the University Innovation Centres announced in the White Paper 'Opportunity for all' (www.dti.gov.uk/opportunityforall). The centres provide examples of the potential for HEIs to act as hubs for economic growth and to promote the participation of SMEs in the generation and exploitation of knowledge. While there will not be another specific call for further University Innovation Centres as such, HEIs involved in assembling funding packages to develop similar centres may wish to consider applying for support under HEIF for knowledge transfer elements.

b. Training and development for staff, including enhanced programmes of staff exchange.

c. The creation and development of units within the institution to promote and ensure wider awareness by students and staff of employment outside higher education.

d. Development of systems for recognising and rewarding staff engaged in knowledge transfer.

e. The creation and development of business-friendly mechanisms and materials to promote and explain HE products, processes and services to small businesses.

f. The creation and development of business incubator units in HEIs.

g. Setting in place arrangements within the HEI to improve the responsiveness of continuing vocational education programmes to local and regional needs.

h. Developing expertise in understanding, protecting and exploiting intellectual property (either in-house or collaboratively), including the recruitment of specialist staff.

11. The above are given only as examples of the sorts of activity the funding might support, and to indicate the wide-ranging nature of the fund. It will be for institutions themselves to propose activities which will enable them to implement their strategic approach, and which are consistent with the aims and objectives of the fund, and to demonstrate how they will measure their performance.

12. The fund will not support activities for which funding is already available from other sources, but proposals may be made for activities to complement and build upon work funded from elsewhere – provided that added value can be clearly demonstrated. In particular, institutions proposing large collaborative projects, that will incur both capital and recurrent costs, should bear in mind the possibility of putting together a package using both HEIF and the Science Research Investment Fund, if there is a research element.

13. In addition to promoting HE-business interactions, it is hoped that the funding will contribute to the development of interactions between HEIs and a broader range of bodies within the community, where this has the potential to make a significant contribution to wealth creation and economic development. For example, this might include using the HEI's expertise to assist productive innovation in local health organisations and voluntary bodies as well as in commercial business.

Information required

14. All applications should include the following information:

a. Business plans, flowing from and directly related to the institution's corporate plan, mission and objectives, and describing the institution's strategic approach to securing the aims of the fund. These should specify milestones, targets for the delivery of specified services, and the management structures and other internal arrangements to be introduced to ensure the necessary action. The expected impact of the actions, and the performance indicators against which the institution will measure progress and from what baseline, should be clearly defined. *Applications without clear, quantitative and qualitative targets are unlikely to be funded.*

b. Credible and effective proposals for measures to establish better links with a range of businesses, including small companies, which are designed to encourage informed interaction and improved understanding. These should address in particular the need to offer smaller companies and other organisations a range of services through a single point of contact. This role should be assigned to staff who both understand the companies' needs and are well placed to ensure an appropriate response.

c. Evidence of how the proposed action will help to change the culture within the HEI, including measures to encourage individual staff to forge links with business.

d. Evidence that the proposals respond, where appropriate, to identified regional skills and economic development agendas, and reflect co-ordinated planning at regional level. This should include confirmation from the Regional Development Agency that proposals are compatible with and/or further the Regional Economic Strategy.

e. Evidence that costs of the provision to be funded cannot be fully recovered, and will be both additional to existing provision and sustainable in the longer term.

f. Evidence that the possibility of collaborative action has been considered, with both HEIs and others (such as businesses and Regional Development Agencies). Such collaboration might be based on regional planning or a shared interest in a particular area of work, and is encouraged especially where scarce specialist skills are to be deployed. Applications proposing that an HEI would take some actions alone and others in consortium would also be welcome.

g. Arrangements for building upon and drawing together existing good practice within HE, and previous and current initiatives in the field by other agencies. This would include arrangements for ensuring that activities funded by HEIF complement and do not duplicate the continuing work of such agencies. HEIs may find it helpful to refer to the list of major current initiatives in HE-business links published on the HEFCE web-site (www.hefce.ac.uk under 'Business and the community').

h. Evidence of progress made with any existing HEROBC awards including a summary report of achievement against the targets set out in the HEROBC proposal.

i. Evidence of the effectiveness of pre-existing interaction between the HEI and business and other organisations. This could include income generated; spin-out companies; people-based links such as business involvement in course design or teaching; and strategic level interaction such as business representation on the HEI governing body, and HEI representation on economic and business groups. One way to provide this information would be to attach a copy of the HEI's response to the recent HEFCE sponsored survey of HE-business interactions, but HEIs may include different or additional information if they wish.

15. An HEI should submit only one application unless it also proposes to conduct some activities in consortium (see paragraph 16 below). Applications should not be longer than eight A4 pages. Brief

appendices setting out relevant additional material, including statistical information, may be attached to these, but are not required. Where applications refer to material already provided to the HEFCE (for example, institutions' current strategic plans) this need not be reproduced in full.

Applications from consortia

16. Where two or more HEIs propose collaborative action to be funded within the programme, or where large strategic collaborations are being developed:

a. A single joint application should be submitted by each group of HEIs, identifying the activities for which the consortium seeks funding.

b. The application should identify a co-ordinating institution within the consortium which would receive the grant, be accountable for securing proper application of the grant, and provide monitoring statements.

c. The application should indicate clearly the additional benefits which acting in collaboration would achieve, either within a single region or across regional boundaries.

d. The HEIs concerned may also submit separate individual applications. If an institution applies successfully both individually and in consortium, its likely share of any collaborative funding will be taken into account in determining its grant for individual activities.

e. Collaborative bids will be particularly welcome, especially where institutions with a need to develop capacity are able to work with and learn from more experienced partners.

Assessment criteria

17. Applications will be assessed in the light of advice from an expert advisory group, having regard to the HEI's past achievements in interacting with business and its future plans in this field. In particular, the group will consider:

a. Overall strength and practicality, value for money, and contribution to the objectives of the fund.

b. Conformity with the HEI's or consortium's corporate plan, mission and objectives.

c. Response to identified national, regional and local needs, and the creation and strengthening of strategic partnerships. Key partners are Regional Development Agencies, the Small Business Service, and representatives of the business community.

d. The effectiveness of the HEI's pre-existing interaction with business, as indicated by the information in the application and by reference to statistical information from other sources.

e. The scope for improvement in the economic well-being of the region or sub-region in which the HEI is located.

f. The ability to draw in other sources of funding, especially from the private sector, and particularly from collaboration.

g. The extent to which activities are co-ordinated.

Allocations

18. Once applications have been selected for funding on this basis, funds will be allocated to HEIs at a level depending on:

- the strength of the application
- the size of the HEI, or scale of consortium
- the scale of its current activities in this field
- the scale of the proposed funded activity
- the outcomes it will generate.

Award of funding

19. Awards will only be made where the quality of bids exceeds a minimum threshold. Part only, or none, of the funding available will be allocated if the overall quality of bids is insufficiently high.

20. Following the call for applications, awards will be made for the three year period 2001-04 to HEIs (including consortia of HEIs) whose applications best meet the criteria in these guidelines.

21. The levels will be finalised when applications have been scrutinised, but it is expected that awards in the region of £0.5 million will be available for

smaller single institution bids for HEROBC-type projects. Awards in the region of £5 million are expected for larger strategic collaborative HEIF projects. Funding awards will be for a maximum three year period.

Management

22. Funds are being provided by the DTI/OST. The expert advisory group to consider applications will include representatives from OST, HEFCE, DTI, DfEE, HEIs and business. The group will take advice from HEFCE regional consultants on how the applications relate to the mission and strengths of the HEI, and to regional needs and developments. This advice will reflect discussion between the regional consultants and regional agencies, including Government Offices and Regional Development Agencies.

23. The final decision on awards will be taken by DTI ministers.

24. The fund will be administered by the HEFCE on behalf of DTI/OST and the HEFCE jointly. This will build upon work undertaken to manage the HEROBC fund, which includes informal monitoring of progress.

Monitoring and evaluation

25. Progress in implementing HEIs' plans will be monitored within the wider framework for HEI corporate plans, annual operating statements and data on knowledge transfer performance. Recipients of funding will be required to provide monitoring information each year (as set out in Annex B of HEFCE 00/05 'HEROBC: second invitation to apply for special funding'. In addition, the HEFCE will commission, on behalf of OST and HEFCE jointly, independent evaluations of the fund, associated closely with the evaluations of HEROBC. OST and HEFCE will invite the advisory group to consider the conclusions to be drawn from these evaluations, which will aim to:

- establish if the fund is improving interaction between HEIs and business
- assess the success of individual elements of funding
- provide good practice material for wider dissemination.

Annex C

List of acronyms

DfEE	Department for Education and Employment
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
HE	Higher education
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEI	Higher education institution
HEIF	Higher Education Innovation Fund
HEROBC	Higher Education Reach-out to Business and the Community Fund
OST	Office of Science and Technology
PSRE	Public sector research establishment
PSREF	Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund
SMEs	Small and medium sized enterprises
SRIF	Science Research Investment Fund

Higher Education Funding Council for England
Northavon House
Coldharbour Lane
BRISTOL
BS16 1QD

tel 0117 931 7317
fax 0117 931 7203
www.hefce.ac.uk